

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Tennessee

Location	Type	Years	Details
Bristol	WBAS WSO	1944-1953, 1959- 1995?	The Weather Bureau took over the weather station at Tri-City Airport from the CAA on St. Patrick's Day 1944. The office was closed on the midnight shift as of September 1953, but resumed full-time operations in November 1959. A WSR-57 network radar was commissioned 5/25/1972. The office was relocated to Morristown in 1995.
Chattanooga	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1879-1995	A Signal Service station opened at the Hamilton County Courthouse in 1879, then moved to the U.S. Customs House in 1893 after the Weather Bureau took over operations. The office relocated to the James Building in 1909, then the post office in 1934. In July 1940, the main office was relocated to Lovell Field; a separate office at the post office processed observational forms from around the country, remaining open through at least 1956. A WSR-74C radar was installed at the airport in the 1980's, and decommissioned in 1998. The office was closed in 1995, and observations were transferred to a federal contract.
Knoxville	SigSvc WBO WBAS RFC WSO	1871-1995	The first office in Knoxville was operated by the Signal Service beginning in 1871; the Weather Bureau took over in 1891. The city offices operated in several locations, including locations on the University of Tennessee campus, but had settled at the federal courthouse by 1934. An airport office was established at McGhee-Tyson Airport in 1939, and the city office was relocated there in March 1942. The Tennessee Valley River Forecast Center was established around 1950, but was downgraded to a Water Supply Forecast Unit in 1957 and closed in 1959. The weather office was closed in 1995, with its functions transferred to the new NWS office in Morristown.
<u>Memphis</u>	SigSvc WBO RDO FAWS WBAS WSFO WSMO WFO CWSU	1930-present	Observations began in Memphis 2/1871, and remained at various downtown locations through 9/1964. The Weather Bureau opened a River District Office during the 1930's, a Weather Bureau Airport Station 10/24/1931, and a Flight Advisory Weather Station in 1943. The first radar in the area, a WSR-3, was installed in Millington in 1957. The River District Office closed in 1964, and the downtown and airport stations merged. A Center Weather Service Unit was established in 1978 for aviation forecasting. A WSR-57 radar was installed at the Memphis Naval Air Station, operated by the NWS from 2/1971 to 12/1985. Forecast operations moved to new facilities in East Memphis in 1985; a WSR-74S was installed in January 1986, replacing the WSR-57 at the NAS. This radar was replaced by a WSR-88D, installed again in Millington, in 8/1993; the old radar was decommissioned 6/1995.
Monteagle	WBO	1942-1946	A Weather Bureau Office was opened in Monteagle in November 1942, taking over for the CAA. The office was closed in November 1946.
Morristown	WFO	1994-present	A Weather Service Office was opened in Morristown in July 1994, as a merger of the Knoxville and Bristol offices. The office was upgraded as part of the NWS modernization.
Nashville	SigSvc WBO WBAS WBMO WSMO WSO WSCMO WFO	1870-present	The Signal Service office for Nashville opened in October 1870, remaining downtown when the Weather Bureau took over. A separate facility at Berry Airport (current Nashville International Airport) was opened in June 1937, and the two facilities were consolidated there on 12/18/1950. Upper-air observations began in 1938. A WSR-3 radar was installed 4/2/1957. Upper-air observations were moved to the Old Hickory area, 11 miles northeast of the airport, in July 1963, and a WSR-57 was commissioned here 10/31/1970 to replace the old unit; the main office remained at the Nashville airport. The

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two facilities were consolidated in Old Hickory in the 1990's, and a WSR-88D was installed.

Oak Ridge	WBO	1949-1975?	A special Weather Bureau office was opened in April 1949, to support the work of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. In the mid 1960's, operations were transferred to the new Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Laboratory, which later became part of NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory.
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